

Spring 2015

Call 435-260-9646
for more information.

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

"A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depend on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received." –Albert Einstein.

Grand County School District



Children, Mentors, & Books

This spring, Moab's own Back of Beyond Books and Desert West Office Supply created a generous new program to provide free books to Grand Area Mentoring students. This program is designed to spread the love of reading and the benefits of literacy to our community's promising youngsters.

With a special voucher in hand, mentors and students visit Back of Beyond Books and browse a broad selection of titles for all ages and tastes. Mentors help their mentees explore the various sections of the store, talk about the difference between fiction and non-fiction, and enjoy an off-campus adventure.

For many mentees, this is a rare opportunity to choose a book at their reading

level and in their area of interest – whether that's middle-grade, graphic novels, young adult, or picture books. They can take it home, read and re-read it, and put it on a shelf as a reminder of the fun to be had in the world of books.

This is the face of mentoring and comprehensive education in Grand County School District.



Growth in 2015

2014-2015 marks Grand Area Mentoring's tenth year serving the students and families of Moab. It also marks a high point for the program. As of April 2015, Grand Area Mentoring has provided a record 82 children with one-on-one mentoring since August. Current matches have pushed program capacity to its limit (though, of course, eleven students now wait to be matched with mentors. We aim to match them next school year, if not sooner).

70% of the mentees who graduate or exit from the program have met the goal of at least one-year sustained relationship with their mentors. That's more than 20% better than the recommended benchmark, and Grand Area Mentoring's average match lasts 450% longer than matches in a national Dept. of Education study.

More children. Longer matches. Better results. This is mentoring in Moab.

Mentoring Sites:

- HMK Elementary
- Moab Charter School
- Grand Co. Middle School
- Grand Co. High School

Top Partners:

George S. & Dolores Doré
Eccles Foundation

Grand County School
District

Jennifer Speers

Grand County Education
Foundation

Red Cliffs Lodge

Laurie Michaels & David
Bonderman

Footprints, Inc.

Beacon Afterschool
Program

Best Western Plus
Canyonlands Inn

Rocky Mountain Power
Foundation

HMK Community Council

The Synergy Company

Wells Fargo Foundation

Carl George Bjorkman
Foundation

Zions Bank

Funding Update:

To date, 74 donors and foundations have raised 80% of Grand Area Mentoring's budget for 2015. Longtime partnerships and new contributors are supporting a project that is 38% more efficient, per student, than mentoring programs nationwide.



Grand Area Mentoring

Address:

Grand Area Mentoring
264 South 400 East
Moab, UT 84532

Phone: [435-259-1516](tel:435-259-1516)

E-Mail: grandareamentoring@gmail.com

www.grandmentoring.org

Coordinator:
[Megan McGee](#)

Program Director:
[Daniel McNeil](#)

Advisory Committee:
[Moab Community Action Coalition](#)

Next Mentor Orientation:
Please call for time and
location. 435-260-9646

About GrandAM...

In June, Grand Area Mentoring will close its tenth year of service to Grand County. The program is generously funded by the Grand County School District, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Jennifer Speers, Laurie Michaels & David Bonderman, Carl George Bjorkman Foundation, Grand Co. Education Foundation, Red Cliffs Lodge, and many other kind organizations and donors.

Adult mentors meet with students in one-on-one settings to encourage growth and bolster self-confidence. Their weekly sessions sometimes include board games, basketball, and computers. Other matches pursue crafts, reading, and talking about life. Mentors and students seek activities that are mutually enjoyable and enriching.

Grand Area Mentoring creates lasting and fruitful relationships using an evidence-based approach. New volunteers are trained in mentoring best practices and always supported with regular staff contact. Volunteers offer one meeting per week and receive the satisfaction of positively impacting a life forever.

Mentoring in Action



The Gift of Belief

At the Council of Great City Schools Conference in Wilwaukee, David Coleman, president of the College Board, rocked the collection of educators. He said, “We have enough assessments. We need better opportunities.”

What did he mean by that? Coleman said that something stuck out during the College Board’s study of what helps children succeed in the long term. It wasn’t more testing. It wasn’t necessarily a wider range of subjects.

“What mattered most was having an adult who said to each one, I believe in you,” Coleman explained.

The only way children, especially at-risk children, can capitalize on education and career opportunities is if they have a kind adult guiding them and cheering them on. Last year, one student captured the program’s spirit in an end-of-year interview. When asked if mentoring changed how he felt, he said, “I don’t feel so alone.” That’s because his mentor believes in him.

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.”

—Oscar Wilde

